

**44802. MICROLAENA STIPOIDES (Labill.) R. Br. Poaceæ.****Meadow rice-grass.**

From Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. Purchased from Messrs. Arthur Yates & Co. (Ltd). Received May 31, 1917.

These seeds were introduced for the Office of Forage-Crop Investigations.

A perennial, erect or ascending grass, 1 to 2 feet in height, with usually rather short and very acute leaves, narrow panicles 3 to 6 inches long, and 1-flowered spikelets. It keeps beautifully green throughout the year and will live in poor soil, provided it be damp. It bears overstocking better than any other native grass and maintains a close turf. It is native in Australia and also in New Zealand. (Adapted from *Bailey, Queensland Flora*, pt. 6, p. 1872, and from *Maiden, Useful Native Plants of Australia*, p. 94.)

**44803. SOLANUM TUBEROSUM L. Solanaceæ.****Potato.**

From Allahabad, India. Presented by Mr. William Bembower, horticulturist, Ewing Christian College. Received May 31, 1917.

"Potato seed produced on the farm of the Agricultural Department of the Ewing Christian College, Allahabad. Gathered in March, 1917. The variety or varieties we have here are of inferior quality generally, and we find a little difficulty in carrying them over the hot season, but we are trying to improve the local kinds." (*Bembower*.)

**44804 and 44805.**

From Yih sien, Shantung, China. Presented by Rev. R. G. Coonradt. Received June 1, 1917.

**44804. CANNABIS SATIVA L. Moraceæ.****Hemp.**

"The hemp is planted here in March, in rich, black soil, and often irrigated. From the fiber taken from the outside of the stalk our best rope is made." (*Coonradt*.)

For the use of the Office of Fiber Investigations.

**44805. POLYGONUM TINCTORIUM Lour. Polygonaceæ.**

"The 'blue plant' may be common in America. When mature, it is put through a process to obtain the dye with which all of our blue clothes are colored." (*Coonradt*.)

An annual herb commonly cultivated in dry fields in China and Japan, growing to a height of 1 to 2 feet. The leaves are variable in shape, ranging from long narrow to short and oval, and the pink flowers are borne in spikes. The dried leaves are made into "indigo balls," from which the dye is obtained. (Adapted from *Useful Plants of Japan*, p. 101.)

**44806. CANAVALI GLADIATUM (Jacq.) DC. Fabaceæ. Sword bean.**

From Cairo, Egypt. Presented by Mr. F. G. Walsingham, horticultural division, Gizeh Branch, Ministry of Agriculture. Received June 1, 1917.

A robust, woody, perennial climbing plant, with leaves composed of three roundish leaflets, 2 to 6 inches long, and axillary racemes of dark-purple flowers. The scimitar-shaped pods are about a foot long and contain numerous red or white seeds which resemble large beans. The young pods are sliced and boiled for table use and are also pickled. Propagation is by seeds. (Adapted from *Lindley, Treasury of Botany*, vol. 1, p. 212, and from *Macmillan, Handbook of Tropical Gardening and Planting*, p. 207.)